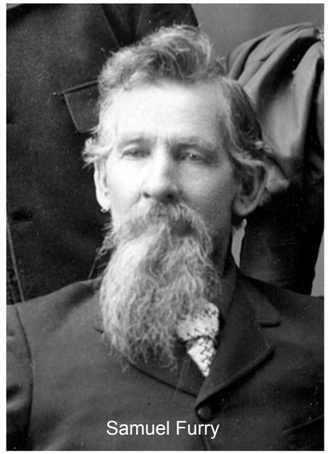
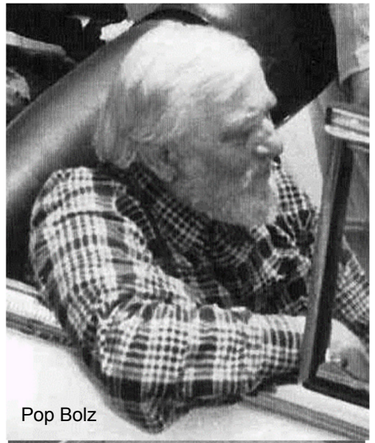

Samuel Furry

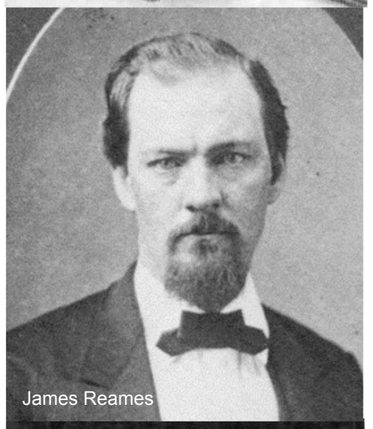
SAMUEL FURRY (1823 – 1899), his wife Amelia, their three children and some extended family left Iowa in 1860 and came by wagon train to Phoenix taking up a donation land claim on the east side of Phoenix where Coal Mine Road and Centennial Golf Course are today. He continued to buy land and farm until his death in 1899. Samuel served two terms in the State Legislature as well as several terms as County Commissioner; he was a "worthy pioneer who had rare skill and judgment."

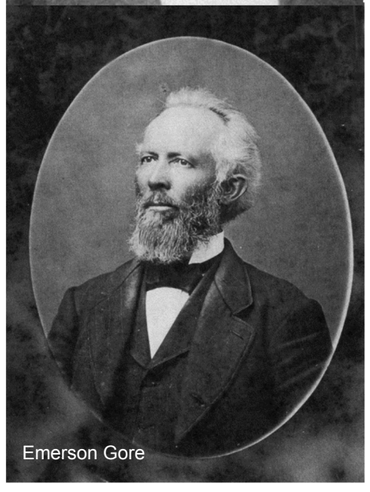
EMERSON GORE (1824 – 1910) was born in Vermont. In 1852 Emerson along with his wife Elizabeth, stepson Lewis Rose, daughter Anetta and twin brother Ebenezer came to Oregon by wagon train. They took up a donation land claim three miles north of Phoenix along Bear Creek, their home being located where the Southern Oregon Nursery is today. The two brothers built a sawmill and did well for quite some time until the flood of 1861 that washed away the mill. The Gore family was active in establishing the Jacksonville and Phoenix Presbyterian churches. They were also active in the musical development of the valley.

RICHARD FREDERICK BOLZ (1872 – 1954) was known as "Pop" to his many family members and friends. He grew up in South Dakota, marrying, raising a family, and running a grocery store there. The family relocated to Ashland in 1910 where he established The Eastern Store selling dry goods. In 1913 he purchased a farm in Phoenix and started a hay and grain business and opened a Mobil gas station on Hwy 99. The farm was located near where the Phoenix triangle is now. Over the years portions of his property have been purchased by the Phoenix School District for a high school, by the Phoenix Pioneer Cemetery for expansion, by the buyers of Ray's Market, Jack in the Box, and most recently by ODOT for the new freeway interchange.

JAMES R. REAMES (1844-1906) came west with his family at eight years old in 1853. The family settled on a donation land claim just south of Phoenix. James spent most of his life in the mercantile business, and was devoted to farming. He served on the Phoenix School Board for eighteen years.


Pop Bolz


James Reames

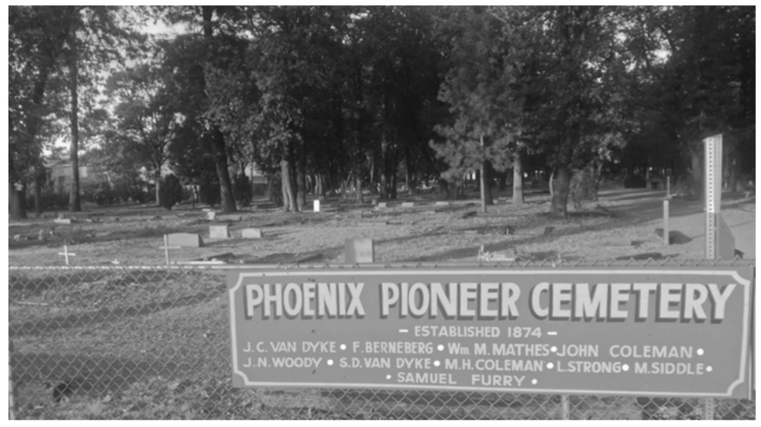

Emerson Gore

Thanks to the Oregon Historic Cemeteries Commision for 2016 funding to create this guide and to SOHS for use of the masthead. Images courtesy of the Phoenix Historical Society Museum. This guide produced at Southern Oregon University in 2017.

Phoenix Pioneer CEMETERY

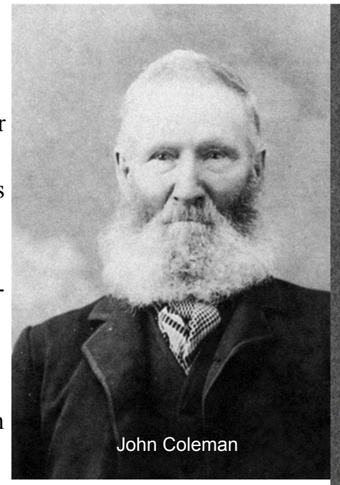
The city of Phoenix was established in the early 1850's. The city's first cemetery was located on the hill at the south end of Rose Street and was known as Graveyard Hill. On November 16, 1874 Sam and Huldah Colver sold two acres of their Donation Land Claim to establish a cemetery on Church Street and five other pioneers were appointed to be the trustees of the cemetery. The trustees drew up the plans for the plots and roads and the graves that had been located on Graveyard Hill were then moved to the new cemetery. Over the years the cemetery purchased more land from neighboring properties, ending with the purchase of land in 1928 from the Presbyterian Church on the North East corner of Church Street. This is now the location of the Phoenix Historical Society and Museum.

The Phoenix Pioneer Cemetery is at 509 North Church Street between North Rose and North Church streets. Although the names have changed, the cemetery is still operated and maintained by five volunteer trustees. Donations are gladly accepted. Burial plots are still available in the Phoenix Pioneer Cemetery.


PHOENIX PIONEER CEMETERY
– ESTABLISHED 1874 –
J.C. VAN DYKE • F. BERNEBERG • Wm. M. MATHES • JOHN COLEMAN •
J.N. WOODY • S.D. VAN DYKE • M.H. COLEMAN • L.STRONG • M.SIDDLE •
• SAMUEL FURRY •

Phoenix Pioneer Cemetery
Phoenix Historical Society
and Museum
607 North Church Street
Phoenix, Oregon 97535
541-512-0614

JOHN COLEMAN (1824-1905) was born in Ohio and came west in 1853 with his brother Matthew. They settled on donation land claims in the Phoenix area near a stream that later became known as Coleman Creek. In 1861 he married Maria M. Allen. One of the only recorded transactions in Jackson County between a Native American and a white person was John's 1864 purchase of 166 acres of land along what is now called Coleman Creek owned by a Seminole named Icose-C- Emath-La, who had gained the land bounty from his cavalry service in the Florida Wars. John remained in the Phoenix area all his life and was known as one of the best known and highly respected citizens of Jackson County.


John Coleman

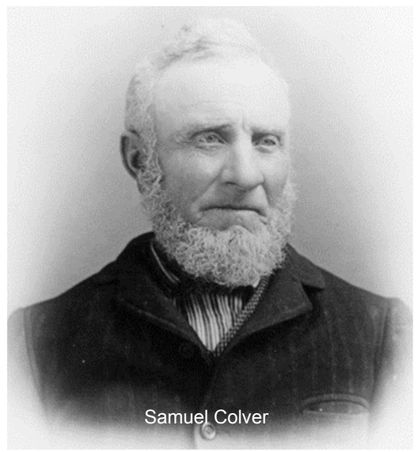
MARIAN TOWNE (1880-1966) was born in a mining camp at Sterling. The family moved to Phoenix, where her father owned a profitable mercantile store. When Marian finished high school she worked as an assistant to the county clerk for Jackson County. Just two years after women received the right to vote in Oregon, Marian won the election to become Oregon's first woman legislator in 1914. During her time in Salem she served on three House committees. Following her time in Salem, she enlisted in the Naval Reserve as Chief Yeoman and later served in the active Navy. She was released from active duty following the war, in 1919.

Marian Towne

AMELIA FERNS (1859–1937), her husband William and their seven children came to Oregon from Iowa by wagon train in 1898. They'd purchased over 1000 acres on the east side of Phoenix from Amelia's late grandfather Ebenezer Carver. One year later, her husband died and left her with 7 children ages 2 to 15 years old. It was through hard work, perseverance and the pioneer spirit that she raised her family and kept the farm, which was later passed on to her children. The area is now known as Fern Valley.

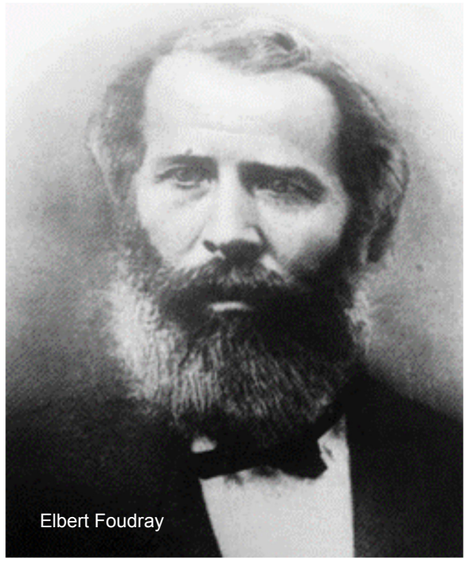
The Fern Family, 1905
Taken 1905

DR. THEODORE JOHN MALMGREN (1871-1929) was born in South Dakota and educated there. On June 1, 1909 he began practicing medicine in Phoenix and a few months later married Frederika Barbara Haan. Dr. Malmgren was well known for treating patients all over the valley, from Ashland to Gold Hill and beyond. He treated patients in the poor house and served on the draft board in 1918. The large home and stone office he built in 1911 and 1914 are still standing on 2nd Street in Phoenix.


Samuel Colver

SAMUEL COLVER (1815-1891) and his wife Hulda are considered to be the founders of Phoenix. Sam and his brother Hiram brought their families west in 1850 and took up donation land claims in 1851. In 1854 Sam built a large house that served as a meeting place, school house, refuge and home until it burned in 2008. Over the years, Sam sold parcels of his land to the settlers and the settlement of Phoenix was started. Sam Colver was a good debater and was always ready to express his opinions on any subject; he was an early abolitionist and advocate of women's rights, and a prohibitionist. Samuel lost his life in Klamath Lake on a business trip to that town.

ELBERT DOWNES FOUDRAY (1821 – 1903) was known as a Southern Gentleman. He was born in Kentucky and spent his early years moving westward and working at various clerking professions. Before settling in the Rogue Valley in 1852, he tried his hand at mining in California and Oregon. He never made a living at this, so he assembled a pack train that hauled supplies to the miners and later to soldiers and volunteers. Elbert owned a Jacksonville flour mill and became city clerk of Jacksonville until 1860 when he purchased a flour mill in Phoenix. He married Sarah Ali Colver in 1862 and moved to Jacksonville in 1869 where he served as deputy sheriff, then as Justice of the Peace. Elbert retired in1890 and returned to Phoenix. He was nominated as State Representative in 1892. Foudray was responsible for many county improvements.


Elbert Foudray

Frederika and Theodore Malmgren

	3	2	1	C	6	5 Bolz	4	3	2	1	
1	122	123	124		125	126	127	128	129	130	
4	113	112	111		110	109	108	107	106	105 Malmgren	
5	96	97	98	D	99	100 Colver	101	102	103	104	
8	87	86	85		84	83	82	81	80 Ferns	79	
9	70	71	72		73	74 Gore	75	76	77	78	
65	64	63	62 Foudray	61 Towne	60	59 Furry		58	57	56	55	54	53
40	41	42	43	44	45	46		47	48 Coleman	49	50	51	52
39	38												27
14	15												26 Reames